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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,570	04/09/2004	Chanh Le	42P14746D	1889

7590 09/10/2004
R. Alan Burnett
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
Seventh Floor
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025

EXAMINER

SUAREZ, FELIX E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2857

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/821,570	LE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Felix E Suarez	2857	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in-
(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

1. Claims 1-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,558).

With respect to claim 1, Allen et al. (hereafter Allen) teaches a method for testing a computer system board, comprising:

loading the computer system board into a test apparatus (see col. 5, lines 6-28);

automatically coupling a power input to the circuit board via the test apparatus (see col. 3, lines 36-42 and col. 4, lines 7-42);

automatically performing a plurality of computer system board tests (see col. 4 line 59 to col. 5 line 5 and col. 6, lines 42-52); and
storing results of the automatic testing (see col. 1, lines 12-20).

With respect to claims 2 and 11, Allen further teaches comprising:
determining a type of the computer system board (see col. 4 line 59 to col. 5 line 5) ; and

automatically supplying the computer system board with a corresponding set of power inputs during the automatic testing operations (see col. 6, lines 42-52).

With respect to claim 3, Allen further teaches comprising sequencing a plurality of power input signals in response to corresponding power command signals provided by the computer system board (see col. 6, lines 43-67).

With respect to claim 4, Allen further teaches that the plurality of system board tests include testing the computer system board for short circuits (see col. 1, lines 46-60).

With respect to claim 5, Allen further teaches that the plurality of system board tests include testing a video subsystem of the computer system board (see col. Page 1, lines 22-27 and col. 3, lines 6-16),

With respect to claim 6, Allen further comprising automatically inserting one or more memory devices into corresponding connectors on the computer system board (see col. 1, lines 12-20).

With respect to claim 7, Allen further comprising automatically inserting a microprocessor into a corresponding connector on the computer system board (see col. 8, lines 33-56).

With respect to claim 8, Allen further teaches comprising automatically operatively coupling a peripheral card to an expansion slot on the computer system board (see col. 4 line 64 to col. 5 line 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,558) in view of Philyaw (U.S. Patent No 6,757,715).

With respect to claims 9 and 10, Allen teaches all the features of the claimed invention, except that Allen does not teach comprising automatically connecting test electronics to at least input/output (I/O) port connector; nor wherein said at least one I/O port connector comprises at least two I/O port connectors, each having a different connection axis.

But Philyaw teaches in a bar code scanner that a computer comprises standard devices such as a processor having an associated memory, a mass storage unit, a computer keyboard interface circuit having the keyboard port, and a serial input/output I/O interface circuit having the serial I/O port for serial devices, e.g., USB (universal serial bus) devices (see; Philyaw; col. 24, lines 21-44).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Allen to include the bar code scanner as taught by Philyaw, because the bar code scanner of Philyaw includes a serial input/output I/O interface circuit having the serial I/O port for serial devices, as desired.

With respect to claim 12, Allen teaches all the features of the claimed invention, except that Allen does not teach that the type of computer system board is determined by performing the operations of:

storing data in a database relating respective serial numbers of a plurality of computer system boards with corresponding computer system board types;

scanning a serial number bar code on a given computer system board that is to be tested; nor

determining the system board type of that computer system board via a lookup of the database using the serial number that was scanned.

But Philyaw teaches in a bar code scanner that

The user obtains the scanner and software interface, and upon installation, registers the software and scanner by submitting unique numbers associated with each of the scanner and the software interface to a central registration server (CRS) having an associated CRS database storage unit (see Philyaw; col. 25, lines 4-14).

Philyaw also teaches, there is illustrated a sample message packet transmitted from the user's PC to the ARS (Advertiser Reference Server). The message packet comprises a number of bits of information including the bar code information obtained from the user scanning the bar code with the input device; the input device ID which is embedded in a memory in the input device and identifies it with a particular input device distributor; and a user ID which is derived from the software running on the PC and which identifies uniquely with the user location (see Philyaw; col. 19, lines 14-25).

Philyaw further teaches that the ARS 308 interrogates the message packet and performs a lookup function using the ARS database. If a match is

found between particular parameters of the message packet, a return message packet is sent back to the PC for processing (see Philyaw; col.16 line 63 to col. 17 line 14).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Allen to include the bar code scanner as taught by Philyaw, because the bar code scanner of Philyaw allows to storing data in a database, scanning a serial number bar code and performing a lookup function using a database.

Conclusion

Prior Art

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

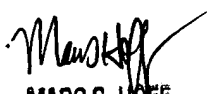
Lin [U.S. Patent No. 6,754,763] describes an input/output I/O, or read/write registers.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix Suarez, whose telephone number is (571) 272-2223. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

August 30, 2004

F.S.


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800